

AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN LANG LEAV'S POETRY AND PROSE *LOVE LOOKS PRETTY ON YOU*

Ayu Rahma Dilla Putri¹, Diana Chitra Hasan²

¹Student of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

Email: ayurahmadillap@gmail.com

²Lecturer of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

Email : diana.hasan@bunghatta.ac.id

ABSTRAK

In this research, the writer analysis the figurative Language that is found in poetry and prose in the book entitled *Love Looks Pretty on You*. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method in analyzing the data in this research. This research uses Kennedy's (1975) theory. The purposes of this research are to identify the type and the meaning of figurative language that is contained in poetry and prose book by Lang Leav. The method that is used in this research is qualitative method. The writer found 62 types of comperative figurative language (37 metaphor, 16 simile, 9 personification) 52 types of correlative figurative language (23 Hyperbole, 10 litotes, 7 paradox, 12 irony) 35 types of contradictive figurative language (3 metonymy, 1 synecdoche, 26 symbolism, 2 allusion, 3 ellipsis) of figurative language. Overall, the result shows that there are 45 prose and 22 poetry, there are 106 figurative language in 45 prose and 43 figurative language in 22 poetry in the book *Love Looks Pretty on You*. It was discovered that the most figurative used in poetry and prose is metaphor and the least amount of figurative in poetry or prose is allusion. The writer also finds that there are many connotative meanings used in figurative language in the book *Love Looks Pretty on You*. The purpose of using figurative language in poetry and prose is to enhance the overall impact and effectiveness of the writing by creating vivid imagery, conveying complex ideas or emotions, and engaging the reader's imagination.

Keyword : *Figurative, Poetry, Prose, Data.*

INTRODUCTION

Every language symbol has a meaning or concept. Because each sound symbol hasan idea or meaning, and it can be said that every language utterance has a meaning. In learning a language, one of the things that need to be understood is the meaning. The subfield that studies meaning is called Semantic. Languages related to Semantics. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of language. Palmer (1967:1), stated that semantics is a technical term used refer to the study of meaning, and because meaning is a part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics.

Poetry and prose usually uses Figurative Language to convey an imaginative and figurative message to make the reader or listener get a certain effect

from the style of language used. According to Abrams (1999:96), figurative language is a marked deviation from what language users understand as the standard meaning of words, or the standard sequence of words, to achieve some special meaning or effect. There are many studies that have examined figurative language in recent years. Figurative language often provides an easier way to express meaning than to express it directly. Figurative language used in literary work such as novels, poetry, prose, and drama. Poetry and prose are types of literary work that uses a lot of figurative language and makes each sentence more interesting.

METHOD

In this study, the writer used a qualitative descriptive method in analyzing the data in this study. A descriptive method is a method that analyzes, classifies,

explains, and presents something through various techniques, surveys, interviews, questionnaires, and tests. According to Creswell (2014:2), qualitative method is an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. In this study, the data source used in a poetry book entitled "Love Looks Pretty on You. "Looks Pretty On You" is a collection of contemporary poetry and prose by famous New Zealand poet Lang Leav. Lang Leav is an international writer whose works always become best sellers. The writer collects data through observation techniques by reading the book "Love Looks Pretty on You" and produces various types of figurative language contained in every word in poetry and prose in the book "Love Looks Pretty on You" which is the writer makes it as data. The writer applies observation techniques in this study. Creswell (2012:213), stated observation as the process subjective methodology of gathering open-ended, firsthand information by observing people and places at a research site. Observation is an important part of research. The writer observes every sentence in poetry and prose in this book. In this study the writer code the data and give a different sign for each type of figurative language, then the writer will classify them into the table. According to Bailey (2007) it involves the act of categorizing segments of data by assigning codes, words, or phrases that represent the topics or subjects they pertain to.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The writer presents the findings and discussion related to the research question regarding the findings of figurative language types and meanings contained in the book Love Looks Pretty On You using the theory of Kennedy (1997). In this chapter, the writer classify types based on classification according to Kennedy's theory and identify the meaning contained in each figurative language based on Leech's (1981) theory of meaning.

a. Comparative Figurative Language

1. Metaphor

My mother, my safe passage into this world, fought a war to show me wars can be won.

(My Mother-Appendix 12 – line 4, poetry)

There is a metaphor in the sentence "My mother, my safe passage into this world, fought a war to show me wars can be won." The author compares her mother to a "safe passage" that helped her to see the world. The meaning contained in the word "safe passage" is a connotative meaning where the author uses a figurative meaning or not the actual word.

2. Simile

And the *tears spilled down her cheeks like a person drowning,*

(Saltwater – Appendix 1 - Line 12 – poetry)

There is a simile in the line above. That is a comparison between the tears flowing down her cheeks and someone who is drowning. The author uses the conjunction "like" to provide a clear comparison to describe her emotions. The meaning contained in the line above is a combination of connotative and affective meanings. The comparison between the tears flowing down the cheeks and someone who is drowning shows that the tears cannot be controlled.

3. Personification

when the *night calls to me*

(For the Moon – Appendix 7 - Line 15 – poetry)

The sentence above is a personification because the author gives "night" a quality of human. The author gives the ability to communicate to the night like a human. There is a connotative meaning in the sentence above because the writer uses personification to give "night" a human quality. And create emotions and associations from the language the author uses in addition

b. Contradictive Figurative Language

1. Hyperbole

Your life is worth less than their fifteen minute

(Without title – Appendix 33 - Line 18 – Poetry)

The sentence above is a form of hyperbole because it contains exaggerated elements in the sentence. In the sentence the author reveals that the life of a person she means is worth less than the fame of a short-lived person. There is a connotative meaning implied in the sentence above. Excessive use of words to describe someone's life that is not important compared to someone's fame which is only 15 minutes.

2. Paradox

Her body marked for death, teeming with life

(My mother – Appendix 12 - Line 4 – Poetry)

The sentence above is a form of paradox. The author creates something that contradicts that is in the word "Her body marked for death," showing that her mother is marked with death as if her body was degenerate, and physically it is explained that her mother cannot do anything, but in the sentence "teeming with life" This shows that the mother's body is still alive and has energy. There is a connotative meaning contained in the line above which highlights the physical decline of a mother

when giving birth to her child which is marked with "Her body marked for death", and her soul that still has energy and is alive which is marked with "teeming with life".

3. Litotes

My body can't hold this much,

(Without title – Appendix - Line 8 – Poetry)

The sentence "My body can't hold this much" is a form of litotes. The author uses litotes to express emotions and the strength of her body to contain it indirectly and explains it in the opposite form of the sentence. There is a connotative meaning that describes the emotional connotation implied by the line above. Shows an emotional burden that is already very large and cannot be borne by her body. There is also an affective meaning where the sentence has an emotional impact such as empathy, tension, and worry for the readers about the writer's struggles.

4. Irony

And like vultures, *they wait for slip, a misstep, and they take the part of us*

(Vultures – Appendix 2 - Line 2 – Prose)

In the sentence it is said about human behavior similar to the vultures. Vultures are described as something that takes the opportunity to find food by not preying and it is very rare to find vultures that directly eat other animals alive. The author compares the humans to the vultures that take advantage of someone's guard. There is a connotative meaning in the sentence above. There is a contrast between human nature that is expected to be empathetic, mutually supportive and loving compared to their greedy and selfish nature.

c. Correlative Figurative Language

1. Metonymy

I said I was happy to be *his girl*,

(Trapped – Appendix 22 – Line 4 – Poetry)

The sentence above is a form of metonymy. The author uses the word "girl" as a substitute for a romantic relationship with her partner which represents the author's role in the relationship. There is a connotative meaning contained in the sentence above because there is a difference between a phrase or word with a literal meaning. The sentence using "his girl" represent a romantic relationship or the author's role in the relationship.

2. Synecdoche

The expression on your face

(From My Heart – Appendix 25 – Line 4 – Poetry)

The sentence above is part of the synecdoche. The author uses "face" as a representative of the whole person. By paying attention to the person's expression, the writer can conclude how the emotion is displayed by that person and this can make the writer understand how a person's feelings or condition as a whole through the expression on their face. In the sentence "the expression on your face" there is a connotation of a person's feelings or motions expressed through their facial expressions, which means that facial expressions are a reflection of a person's personal state or emotions.

3. Symbolism

bed of roses

(Pandora's Box – Appendix 26 – Line 15 – Poetry)

The line above is a part of symbolism. The author uses the word "bed of roses" to represent feelings of joy, passion and freedom. If each of these symbols put together it will become a "bed of roses" which means a situation filled with love, comfort and passion like lying on a bed filled with roses. There is a connotative meaning implied in the sentence. Connotative meaning refers to the emotions and concepts associated with words beyond their literal meaning. The connotation in this sentence highlights the symbol of happiness, comfort, passion and freedom in love.

4. Allusion

A jack-in-the-box at every turn

(Without title – Appendix 33– Line 14 – Poetry)

Jack-in-the-box is part of the allusion in the sentence above. Jack-in-the-box is a very popular children's toy from time to time. In the sentence above the author mentions "A jack-in-the-box at every turn" which means the sudden appearance of something like that toy which creates a feeling of tension and a sense of anticipation towards something. The meaning contained is a connotative meaning in which the writer compares jack-in-the-box which is a popular children's toy with something unexpected that will appear in her life. This triggers the writer's sense of anticipation with what will happen next.

5. Ellipsis

So was it i-

Who made it more?

More or Less – Appendix 30 – Line 9 – Poetry)

The fragment "So was it i-" is an element of the ellipsis figurative language because there is a dash to replace a word or phrase. In this case the author has doubts and questions whether herself feels love for her partner.

Putting a dash on the back adds to the emotion of tension and uncertainty about how their partner feels about them. In this case the meaning contained in the use of ellipsis in the above fragment of the poem is affective meaning.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

a. Concussion

After the writer analysed the data by using the theory of Kennedy (1981) the writer stated that there is a lot of figurative language contained in the poetry and prose of the book *Love Looks Pretty on You* including metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, paradox, litotes, irony, allusion, synecdoche, metonymy, ellipsis, and symbolism. And in the data analyzed, the writer found types of figurative language in poetry and prose.

The writer found 62 types of comparative figurative language (37 metaphor, 16 simile, 9 personification) 52 types of correlative figurative language (23 Hyperbole, 10 litotes, 7 paradox, 12 irony) 35 types of contradictive figurative language (3 metonymy, 1 synecdoche, 26 symbolism, 2 allusion, 3 ellipsis) of figurative language.

They include Prose: 25 Metaphor, 11 simile, 7 personification, 18 hyperbole, 4 paradox, 9 litotes, 11 irony, 1 allusion, 0 synecdoche, 2 metonymy, 1 ellipsis, 17 symbolism. Poetry: 12 Metaphors, 5 similes, 2 personifications, 5 hyperboles, 3 paradoxes, 1 litotes, 1 irony, 1 allusion, 1 synecdoche, 1 metonymy, 2 ellipsis, 9 symbolism. Based on the result of the findings and discussions data found by the writer, the writer finds connotative, affective, correlative and collocative meanings. But mostly the writer found connotative meaning contained in figurative language in the book *Love Looks Pretty on You* by using Leech (1981) theory.

b. Suggestions

Based on the research results of figurative language in poetry and prose books, the writer would like to give some suggestions:

The use of figurative language in poetry and prose must be broader in order to improve the analytical skills of readers or researchers who will read the poetry or prose. The writer hopes that this research will be useful for English literature students and about this material (figurative language), may this study be deepened by the students. And for the next researcher they must have a deeper understanding of figurative language and must understand how to interpret the meaning contained in the figurative language used.

REFERENCES

- Abrams, M. H., & Harpham, G. (2014). *A glossary of literary terms*. Cengage learning.
- Bailey, M. A. (2007). Comparable preference estimates across time and institutions for the court, congress, and presidency. *American Journal of Political Science*.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *A concise introduction to mixed methods research*. Sage publications.
- Kennedy, X. J. 1966. *Literature: an introduction to fiction. Poetry, and drama*. 2nd ed. America: Pearson.
- Leech, G. N. (1981). *Semantics: the study of Meaning*. London: Penguin Books, 1981.
- Palmer, F. R. (1967). *The semantics of the English verb. Lingua*.